

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 - 51 (Cancelled)

52. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising at least one amino acid selected from the group consisting of valine, leucine, and isoleucine and at least one antistress agent selected from pyridyl propanones, antiprogestins, benzoylamino dipropylamino oxopentanoics, benzodiazepines and corticotropin releasing factor (CRF) antagonists.

53 - 54 (Cancelled)

55. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The composition according to claim 52 wherein the antistress agent is selected from metyrapone, mifepristone, proglumide, astressin, alphahelicalcorticotropin releasing hormone (CRH) 9-41, diazepam, allopregnanolone, dextromethorpon, zimelidine, and paroxetine.

56. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~A composition according to claim 55 wherein the antistress agent is selected from metyrapone, mifepristone, proglumide and astressin.

57. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~A composition according to claim 56 wherein the antistress agent is metyrapone.

58. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~A composition according to claim 52 and further comprising a second antistress agent selected from the group consisting of glucocorticoid inhibitors, corticotropin ~~reducing~~ releasing hormone inhibitors, adreno corticotropin hormone (ACTH) inhibitors, cholecystokinin inhibitors, benzodiazepines, gamma amino butyric acid potentiators, antiglutaminergics, and serotonergics.

59. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~A composition according to claim 58 wherein the first at least one antistress agent is metyrapone and the second antistress agent is selected from the group consisting of mifepristone, proglumide, and astressin.

60 (Cancelled)

61. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~A composition according to claim 52 wherein the composition comprises valine, leucine, and isoleucine.

62 – 63 (Cancelled)

64. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~A composition according to claim 52 which further comprises vitamin C.

65 – 66 (Cancelled)

67. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~A composition according to claim 52 wherein the composition is formulated to provide the, or each, antistress agent is present in an amount of from 0.0005 to 1 g/kg of liveweight of an animal to be treated.

68. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~A composition according to claim 67 wherein the composition is formulated to provide the, or each, antistress agent is present in an amount of from 0.001 to 0.1 g/kg.

69. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~A composition according to claim 67 wherein the composition is formulated to provide the, or each, antistress agent is present in an amount of 0.01 g/kg.

70. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~A composition according to claim 52 which further comprises a lipid membrane transfer facilitator.

71. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~A composition according to claim 70 wherein the facilitator is ~~pyrrolopyrimidine~~ a pyrrolopyrimidine.

72. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~A composition as claims in claim 52 which further comprises a performance enhancer.

73. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~A composition according to claim 72 wherein the performance enhancer is an antibiotic.

74. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~A composition according to claim 73 wherein the antibiotic is avilamycin.
75. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~A composition according to claim 72 wherein the performance enhancer is an oligosaccharide.
76. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~A composition according to claim 75 wherein the oligosaccharide is ~~Bio-Mos~~ a muccan oligosaccharide.
77. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~A composition according to claim 52 which is a ~~slow-release composition~~ boluse or time release capsule.
78. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~A composition according to claim 52 which further comprises a nitric oxide promoter.
79. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~A composition according to claim 78 wherein the promoter is selected from L-arginine diethylamine nitric oxide complex, sodium nitroprusside, and S-nitroso-N-acetylpenicillamine.
80. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~A composition according to claim 52 which further comprises at least one pharmaceutically or veterinarily acceptable diluent, excipient, carrier or solubiliser independently or in combination.
81. (Previously Presented) A method for promoting production gain in an animal, the method comprising administering to said animal the composition according to claim 52.
82. (Previously Presented) A method for enhancing the efficacy of at least one amino acid in an animal comprising administering to the animal the composition of claim 52.
83. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 82, wherein the antistress agent is selected from the group consisting of glucocorticoid inhibitors, corticotropin reducing hormone inhibitors, ACTH inhibitors, cholecystokinin inhibitors, benzodiazepines, gamma amino butyric acid potentiators, antiglutaminergics, and serotonergics.

84. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 81, wherein the antistress agent is selected from the group consisting of glucocorticoid inhibitors, corticotropin reducing hormone inhibitors, ACTH inhibitors, cholecystokinin inhibitors, benzodiazepines, gamma amino butyric acid potentiators, antiglutaminergics, and serotonergics.

Claims 85 - 92 (Cancelled)

93. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 52, wherein the composition is in the form of ~~a drench, a pour-on formulation, an injectable, an animal feedstuff, or a bolus.~~
94. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising at least two antistress agents selected from the group consisting of glucocorticoid inhibitors, corticotropin reducing hormone inhibitors, ACTH inhibitors, cholecystokinin inhibitors, benzodiazepines, gamma amino butyric acid potentiators, antiglutaminergics, and serotonergics.
95. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 94, wherein the antistress agents are selected from the group consisting of pyridyl propanones, antiprogestins, benzoylamino dipropylamino oxopentanoics, and amino acids or peptides that are corticotropin releasing factor (CRF) antagonists.
96. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 94, wherein the antistress agents are selected from the group consisting of metyrapone, mifepristone, proglumide, astressin, CRH 9-41, diazepam, allopregnanalone, dextromethorpon, ximelidine, and paroxetine.
97. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 94, wherein the first antistress agent is metyrapone and the second antistress agent is selected from the group consisting of mifepristone, proglumide, and astressin.
98. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 94, which further comprises vitamin C.